

Blogs

A blog, is a website that is designed to be updated frequently with new entries. The entries in a blog are usually displayed in reverse-chronological order (most-recent first). This blog application has an easy-to-use editor that lets you quickly add content and style your work.

Finding a Blog or Journal Site

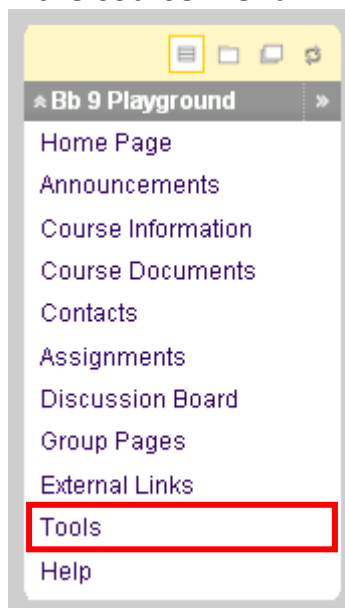
There are two primary places where you can access a blog from within your Blackboard:

- The Central Course Blog site is found within the Tools area of your course or organization.
- Individual or group blog sites can be found in any content area where the instructor has created them.

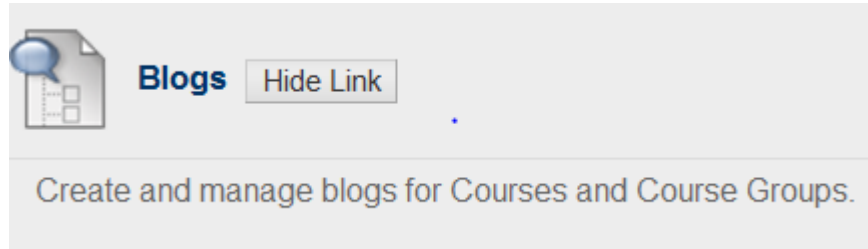
Each course has one Central Course Blog but can have many individual or group blog sites.

Accessing the Central Course Blog

1. Go to your course.
2. Click on the Tools link within the course menu.



3. Click on the **Blog Tool**.

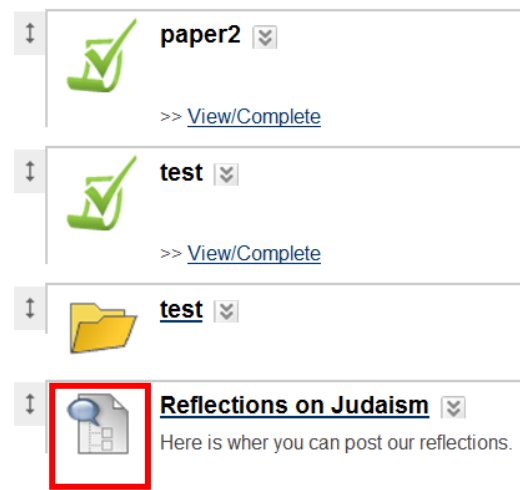


Accessing Individual or Group Blogs

1. Go to your course.
2. Click on the content area (Course Documents, Assignments, etc.) in the course menu.

Course Information
Contacts
Course Documents
Assignments

3. Browse the sub-folders, if any.
4. Click on **the Title of the blog** to open it (in this case Reflections on Judaism).



Uses of a Blog

Blog gives instructors and students the tools to create media-rich journals within a course. The software provides the classroom community with a forum to reflect on course-related topics, projects, and ideas.

Engaging students in reflective writing

Configured as a private journal, a blog serves as a platform for reflective writing. Students can consider and explore course readings, class discussions, or field experiences. Through the journals, the instructor gains ready insight into his students' experiences in the course and can efficiently provide individualized feedback.

Facilitating learning via peer review and feedback

With Blog configured for group access, students learn through peer review. They can view one another's posts and provide comments and suggestions. Such sharing gives students the opportunity to learn by both example and critique.

Encouraging critical thinking and creativity

Using this tool for group or course-wide blogging fosters lively discussion of course topics and concepts. When engaged in written debate, students are motivated to sharpen their critical thinking and rhetorical skills. They can also exercise creativity by adding images, external links, and uploaded files to their posts.

Creating Blogs and Journals

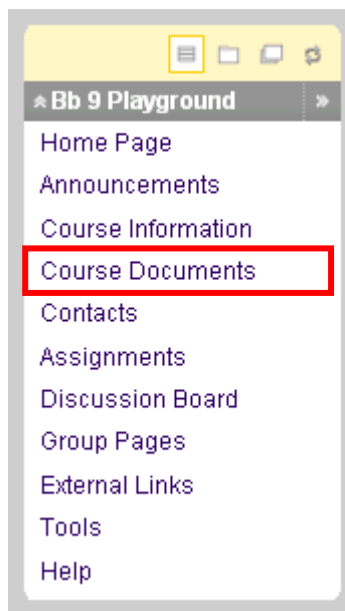
This section explains the how to create blogs or private journals in your course or organization. The different configurations below allow you to create different kinds of assignments and learning activities. The most common types are:

- Private Journals
- Individual Blogs
- Group Blogs

Create the Blog

You can create a blog by adding a special kind of content type within a course or organization Content Area, such as Assignments or Course Documents.

1. Go to your course.
2. Click on the content area (Course Documents, Assignments, etc.) in the course menu.



3. Click on **Add Blog** from the drop down menu in the area labeled **More**.
4. Give the blog a name and description, and make it available.



Create Blog

Blog Information

Name

Reflections

Description

B *I* U ABC [link icon] [image icon] [list icon] [HTML]

Here is where you can post your reflections.

Make the blog available

☒ Yes ☐ No

5. Select the blog type you wish to use in your course (Group Blog or Private Journal).

Select the blog type

☒ **Group Blog**

In group blogs, all blog members and the instructor can view all entries in the blog

☐ **Private Journal**

In private journals, blog members are unable to view each other's entries, but instructors can view all entries in the blog

Allow blog members to view Instructor's entries?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Select whether or not you want to **enable an RSS feed** (Note: This can only be done in Group Blog).

Specify whether an RSS feed should be created for this blog. If enabled, the feed link will be displayed to anyone with access to the blog. Note that publishing the blog via an RSS feed means that anyone with access to the blog could make the contents of the blog public to people outside the system. For this reason, you cannot enable RSS feeds on a Private Journal.

Enable an RSS feed?

☒ Yes ☐ No

7. Select the **value to use to reference users in the blog**, and the **text direction for blog content**.

Select the value to use to reference users in the blog

☐ User Name ☒ Person Name ☐ Person Name and User Name ☐ Given Name

Text direction for blog content

☒ Left to Right ☐ Right to Left

8. Select students and course groups that should be members of the blog.

Member Settings

Select students and course groups that should be members of the blog. Blog members are able to create, edit and delete content within the blog.

Blog members.

☐ All course members
☒ Specific groups and course members

| Course Groups | | Selected Members |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Group 1 Group 2 | | Group 3 |
| ▶ ◀ | | |
| Individual Course Members | | |
| Abelkop, Benay Bartido, Raj Martino, Heather Otskey, William Trotta, Heidi Twal, Riad Zedeck, Mary | | Martino, Heather Phillips, Amy |

9. Choose from a number of options for members, such as allowing students to permanently delete blog entries; export their blog entries; and view, write or delete comments.

☒ **Allow students to permanently delete blog entries**

☒ **Allow members to export their blog entries**

Allow members of the blog to:

☒ View Comments

☒ Write Comments

☐ Delete Comments

10. Choose **date restrictions** if you wish.

Set date and time restrictions for editing the blog.

☐ Allow Edits After

Jul 28 2009
9 00 AM

☐ Allow Edits Until

Jul 28 2009
9 00 AM

11. Choose **Non-member settings** for your blog.

Non-Member Settings

☒ **Allow non-members to view the blog**

If yes, set date and time restrictions for viewing the blog

☐ Display After

Jul 28 2009
9 : 00 AM

☐ Display Until

Jul 28 2009
9 : 00 AM

Allow non-members of the blog to:

☒ View Comments

☐ Write Comments

☐ Delete Comments

12. Disable the content filter if you so choose by checking the box labeled **Disable the content filter**.

Content Filter

The content filter removes scripts and other active content from blogs and wikis. This is an important security feature to prevent cross-site scripting attacks, and should only be disabled for sites that will only be edited by trusted users.

☐ **Disable the content filter**

13. If you want to grade your blog, check the box labeled **Create a Grade Book Entry for this blog**. You will be prompted to give the entry a name, points possible, and decide whether you want this grade to display in My Grades for students.

Create Grade Book Entry

☒ **Create a Grade Book entry for this blog**

If selected, specify the settings for the gradebook item:

Entry Name

Points Possible

Display grades to students ☒ Yes ☐ No

14. When you have finished, select **OK**.

Click 'OK' to finish. Click 'Cancel' to abort this process.

Cancel

OK

Using a Blog

Calendar View

Blogs can be navigated using the calendar view which appears in the sidebar on the right. Any dates on which entries have been written will appear as hyperlinks. Selecting a link will display all entries created on that day. Navigate between months by selecting the month links at the bottom of the calendar.

Viewing Recent Posts

You can see a list of the most recent entries in this blog in the "recent posts" module in the gray side bar. Click on an item to jump to that entry.

Monthly Archives

You can browse all entries from a given month by using the archives module in the gray sidebar.

Commenting on an Entry

The comments area displays at the bottom right of each blog or journal entry. Comments are hidden until you click on the comments link. After opening and viewing the comments, you can add new ones via the Add Comment form.

Note: Depending on your permissions in this blog, you may or may not see the Add Comment form.

Creating a New Entry

To add an entry, click **Create Blog Entry** in the actions section of the gray sidebar.



Reflections on Judaism

If an individual Blog or Journal can be graded, a grade enters

Create Blog Entry

Once you click Create New Entry, you will be brought to the editing pane where you can create the content for your blog entry and specify a title for it. The new entry will be created when you click **Post Entry**.

★ Indicates a required field.

Cancel Save Entry as Draft **Post Entry**

1. Blog Entry Information

★ Title Post on December 6, 2010

Entry Message

Visual Editor is: ON

Rich text editor interface showing the entry content area. The text "Today, after reading....." is visible in the editor. The editor includes a toolbar with various formatting options (bold, italic, underline, link, etc.) and a path indicator at the bottom showing "Path: body".

Editing and Deleting an Entry

To edit an existing entry in a blog, click the double down arrow that appears next to the entry's title.

Once this arrow is clicked, a menu will drop down and where the option to Edit the post is given.

Reflections on Judaism ▾

If an individual Blog or Journal can be graded, a grade entered for an individual member is applied only to that individual. [More Help](#)

Create Blog Entry

Instructions

Please post your reflections on Judaism using cited sources. ✕

Monday, December 6, 2010

Post on December 6, 2010 ▾

Posted by Natalie Trisilla at Monday, December 6, 2010 4:22:14 PM EST

Today, after reading.....

✕ **Comments: 0** [Comment](#)

An entry can be deleted at any time by clicking the double down arrow next to the entry's title and selecting delete from the drop down menu.

Once you click delete, you will have two options.

! Confirm Delete

How do you want to delete "Post on July 28 2009"?

- ☒ Remove - delete the entry from the blog, but allow it to be restored later from the editing history.
- ☐ Delete permanently - destroy all of the data associated with the journal entry. It will be impossible to restore the content.

Cancel **OK**

Remove allows the entry to be recovered, while Delete permanently removes any way of recovering the contents.

When you delete an entry, the existing text is replaced with a message about who deleted it and when. That message will be invisible to users who do not have the ability to edit the journal.